

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1114

S E C R E T USNATO 1967

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF AND USNMR SHAPE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: PROCEEDING IN NATO WITH OPTION III

REF: A) STATE 50372 (NOTAL); B) USNATO 318 DTG 221523Z JAN 75

(NOTAL); C) STATE 80069 (NOTAL)

1. AT FEB 27-28 TRILATERAL, U.S. SUGGESTED AND UK AND FRG AGREED, THAT MODALITIES OF TREATING OPTION III WITHIN THE ALLIANCE COULD BE DISCUSSED BY U.S., UK AND FRG PERMREPS AFTER THE MARCH 20-21 TRILATERAL EXPERTS MEETING. NOW THAT THE RESULTS OF THE LATTER MEETING ARE IN, MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE QUESTION OF MODALITIES IS READY FOR DISCUSSION HERE. THIS MESSAGE SETS FORTH THE QUESTION AS MISSION CURRENTLY SEES IT.

2. THE U.S. WOULD INTRODUCE ITS PROPOSAL ON OPTION III INTO THE NAC, FOR EVENTUAL NAC APPROVAL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREED ALLIED PROCEDURE. THE CHOICE OF THE FORUM WHERE THE ALLIES WOULD THEN DISCUSS THE ISSUES, AND WOULD DRAFT GUIDANCE TO THE AHG FOR NAC APPROVAL, WOULD BE GOVERNED BY THE NEED FOR EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION OF OPTION III.

3. THE NORMAL FORUM FOR THE NAC TO REFER AN MBFR MATTER IS SPC. MISSION BELIEVES THE IDEA OF SPC MEETINGS REINFORCED BY EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS HAS CONSIDERABLE MERIT. PRESENCE OF EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS AT INITIAL SPC CONSIDERATION WOULD PERMIT ON-  
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THE-SPOT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, WHICH WOULD ACCELERATE EDUCATION OF DECISION MAKERS IN CAPITALS RE OPTION III. THEIR PRESENCE WOULD, WE HOPE, HELP OBVIATE THE NEED FOR A WRITTEN, AGREED ALLIED-MILITARY-TECHNICAL ANALYSIS, OF THE SORT NORMALLY

DONE BY MBFR WORKING GROUP. WHETHER OPTION III COULD BE HANDLED BY SPC MEETINGS ONLY WITH EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS, OR WHETHER THERE WOULD BE SOME SPC MEETINGS ON OPTION III WITHOUT EXPERTS, WOULD DEPEND ON HOW MANY MEETINGS THE ALLIES NEEDED TO CONSIDER OPTION III. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, FRG DELEGATION OFFICER HOYNCK TELLS US THAT RUTH ESTIMATES THAT ALLIES WILL NEED 2-3 MONTHS TO CONSIDER OPTION III. HOYNCK SEES SOME UTILITY IN SPC MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS INTERSPERSED WITH SOME REGULAR SPC MEETINGS BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS.

4. MISSION ANTICIPATES FRG DELEGATION WOULD GO ALONG WITH U.S. ON THE QUESTION OF FORUM. UK DELEGATION OFFICER BAILES TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT UK DELEGATION IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF NEED TO HAVE MILITARY ON BOARD AND WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO BRING IN SACEUR, MILITARY COMMITTEE AND MBFR WORKING GROUP.

5. IF U.S. FAVORED SPC WITH EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS AS FORUM, U. S. WOULD PROPOSE THIS COURSE UPON INTRODUCING OPTION III IN NAC.

U. S. WOULD NOTE EXCEPTIONAL NATURE OF THIS PROCEDURE, TO HANDLE OPTION III ALONE. U.S. WOULD ALSO REQUEST IN NAC THAT MC CHAIRMAN ASK SACEUR TO UPDATE SHAPE ASSESSMENT OF OPTION III. MISSION BELIEVES UPDATING OF SHAPE ASSESSMENT WILL BE USEFUL, THAT THE OTHER ALLIES WILL WANT AN UPDATING, AND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD PROPOSE IT. UPDATING OF SHAPE ASSESSMENT, COUPLED WITH PRESENCE OF EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS IN SPC, WOULD ALSO HELP OBVIATE NEED FOR A WRITTEN, AGREED ALLIED MILITARY-TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SORT NORMALLY DONE BY MBFR WORKING GROUP. MC REP (GROUP CAPTAIN SMITH) SITS ON SPC, AND WOULD KEEP MC INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SPC MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS. MC WOULD, OF COURSE, MAKE ANY INPUT WHICH MEMBER STATES ON THE MC WISHED IT TO MAKE.

6. IF PROCEDURE OF SPC MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS IS

ADOPTED, MISSION BELIEVES FIRST MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE 10-14 DAYS AFTER DISTRIBUTION OF DETAILED U.S. PAPER, TO PERMIT CAPITALS  
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TO STUDY PAPER AND FORMULATE QUESTIONS ON IT. SPC COULD THEN JUDGE WHEN NEXT MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE. IN MISSION VIEW, IF WASHINGTON WISHES THIS PRCEDURE, U.S. SHOULD PROPOSE IN NAC LIMITING THE NUMBER OF EXPERTS FROM EACH CAPITAL TO TWO, IN ORDER THAT THE MEETINGS BE MANAGEABLE.

7. FRG DELEGATION OFFICER HOYNCK HAS INFORMED US THAT FRG WILL FOLLOW U.S. LEAD ON QUESTION OF SECURITY VIS-A-VIS PORTUGAL. MISSION HOPES OPTION III WOULD NOT REQUIRE FURTHER EXCLUSION OF PORTUGAL FROM NATO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. MISSION WILL HAVE FURTHER COMMENT IF WASHINGTON BELIEVES ANY ASPECTS OF OPTION III SHOULD BE KEPT FROM PORTUGUESE.

8. FINALLY, MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD HELP ALLIED CONSIDERATION

OF OPTION III FOR U.S. TO TALK TO BELGIANS AND DUTCH PRIOR TO INTRODUCTION OF OPTION III INTO NAC. THESE TWO ALLIES WITH TERRITORY IN THE NGA, MAY BE SENSITIVE (PARTICULARLY BELGIUM) TO RECEIVING THE U.S. PROPOSAL AT THE SAME TIME AS LESS INVOLVED ALLIES. MISSION WONDERS IF THE U.S. COULD TRANSMIT NEXT VERSION OF "NEXT STEPS" PAPER TO BELGIANS AND DUTCH AT THE SAME TIME THE U.S. TRANSMITS IT TO UK AND FRG.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENT ON CONSIDERATIONS RAISED IN THIS MESSAGE RE MODALITIES TO ASSIST IN AMBASSADOR BRUCE'S CONVERSATION WITH FRG AND UK PERMREPS, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 13 IF WASHINGTON COMMENT RECEIVED BY THEN, AND FOLLOWING THE RESULTS OF THE APRIL 15 BRIEFING OF THE ALLIES AT PERMREPS LUNCH IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF C. BRUCE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 18 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975NATO01967  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 XGDS-1  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NATO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197504101/abbrzjhg.tel  
**Line Count:** 128  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** n/a  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** A) STATE 50372 (NOTAL); B) USNATO 318 DTG 221523Z JAN 75 (NOTAL); C) STATE 80069 (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MBFR: PROCEEDING IN NATO WITH OPTION III  
**TAGS:** PARM, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006